

MM 87-268

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

5 September 1995

Mr. Roger Holberg  
Federal Communications Commission  
Policy And Rules  
Mass Media Bureau  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr Holberg:

Re: FCC 95-315, Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making and  
Third Notice of Inquiry, 19 August 1995

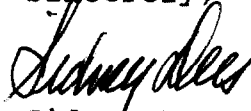
The reference reflects an alarming effort to impede, if not outright derail the development of free television's HDTV (life-blood information/entertainment of citizens of modest means).

Industrial greed has influenced the Federal Communication Commission to adulterate HDTV with seriously threatening schemes to make money from the public's free television radio-frequency spectrum. The reference proposes to defer HDTV implementation in the interest of incorporating a "new ATV" scheme of pay-for-view/service occupying free television spectrum.

The problem is not only is industry wrangling free television spectrum for their grasping purposes, the FCC is impeding HDTV implementation in deference to this new industry ATV scheme and very likely jeopardizing quality of HDTV in the process.

As is shown by this ATV proposal, free TV's 6 MHz channels can support additional functions, these spectra utilizations should be limited to uses benefitting the public at no direct cost, not an inducement for broadcasters to update free television. This double sacrifice, reducing HDTV implementation priority and usurping free spectra, is unconscionable.

Sincerely,

  
Sidney Dees

16517 16th Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98166

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

0

MM 87-268

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 20, 1995  
Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
The Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to remind you that there is a substantial body of citizenry, such as myself, who is becoming less and less certain that 'public servants' are truly engaged in guarding the public trust. Please prove us wrong! The perfect case in point will be the proposed change to a digital standard for TV broadcasting.

- PLEASE ask hard questions of the broadcasters that you are charged with regulating. It is not their airwaves. The airwaves belong to the public.
- PLEASE be specific in your goals and unwavering in your pursuit of them. The broadcast spectrum is our "commons" and is too important to be left to either chance or the (obviously) not too tender mercies of large corporations in pursuit of short term profit.

Pursuit of profit is fine and necessary. Public interest may diverge from such pursuits, however. That is the role of government to arbitrate.

With the granting of additional broadcast spectrum comes additional responsibility to the owners of the airwaves - the public. Please make sure that broadcasters understand that some portion of programming content - the PUBLIC INTEREST portion - must be created by each of them as though their families - their husbands, wives and children will be the only consumers of that content. Please do not allow them to believe otherwise. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Jones

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

1

44-37-268 MMB

**CITIZENS FOR  
MEDIA LITERACY**

34 Wall Street • Suite 407 • Asheville, N.C. 28801  
704-255-0182 • fax 704-254-2286 • e-mail cml@unca.edu

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

17 July 1995

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
Fax: 202-418-2801

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Citizens for Media Literacy in Asheville, N.C., a non-profit educational organization dedicated to teaching critical thinking about media and advertising.

I'm writing to urge that you solicit public comment on the upcoming digital TV rulemaking. To grant broadcasters a block of publically-owned spectrum without public comment is a direct and unconscionable violation of the public trust you swore to uphold when you took your oath of office.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Respectfully,



Wally Bowen  
Executive Director

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION  
VIDEO DIVISION

AUG 2 1 28 PM  
July 19, 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW - 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression is writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

NCFE is an education and advocacy network of artists, arts organizations and the public founded to fight censorship and to protect and defend the First Amendment right to freedom of artistic expression. By activating and empowering the arts community in all its diversity NCFE fights censorship and invigorates the democratic process at the same time.

As you are aware the conversion of digital broadcasting will change the face of television. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly owned spectrum that will allow them to engage in various program and non-program services. NCFE, an advocate of the democratic process, believes that the public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some public interest obligations included in the grant of supplemental spectrum.

One possibility for permitting broadcasters the use of the extra spectrum could be to require that they provide free time to political candidates or have enhanced children's television obligations. NCFE urges the Commission to ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum. At the very least the public should be allowed to comment on the possibility of broadcasters receiving supplemental spectrum that is publicly owned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Mendoza  
Executive Director

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

PO Box 971  
Felton, CA 95018-0971

VIDEO SERVICES  
DIVISION

MH 87-268

AUG 2 1 28 PM '95

July 21, 1995

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
8th Floor, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

As a computer software professional (engineer and manager) and as a long time volunteer to many locally based, national, and international non-profit organizations (and currently serving on the board of directors of one), I wholeheartedly support any consideration of public interest communication.

I believe that the true greatness of the American people, her citizenry, and her democratic principles can only be furthered by giving as many voices as possible the chance to utilize the National Information Infrastructure, including digital television. This of course includes the myriad non-profits that sustain a number of vital functions for our nation's well-being

It is my opinion having read materials relating to this proposal that any \*increase\* of access to new mediums of communication for our country's citizenry should be strongly considered and for that I am expressing my complete support.

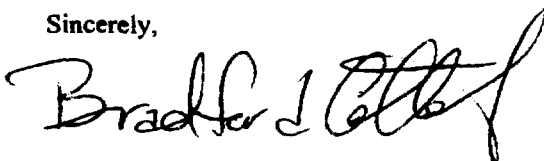
Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. I believe, therefore, that it is self-evident that the public should be permitted, in fact encouraged, to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations tied to granting of supplemental spectrums.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bradford Cottel

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE



VIDEO SERVICES  
DIVISION

AUG 2 1 28 PM '95

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

July 18, 1995

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hundt:

We are writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rule making.

Libraries for the Future, a non-profit public library advocacy organization, represents a national constituency of public library users. Through research, grassroots organizing, and public outreach activities, LFF builds awareness of and support for policies that help ensure accessible, responsive public libraries. We are especially interested in ensuring that public libraries are not left out of the new and evolving information and communications technologies.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. We believe that it is self-evident that the public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diantha Schull  
Executive Director

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

MM 37-248

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

15 June 1995

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The new supplemental format proposed for HDTV (SDTV) is anything but a benefit to the viewing public. It is intended by you and the industry-dominated advisory panel to please the broadcasters, consumer electronic manufacturers and silicon vendors, but it will be at the expense of the little people who are to buy this new technology. The average purchaser can be, and will be, bamboozled by this new array of options, all of which will be promoted as the greatest. The poor buyer has little or no way of distinguishing between the option hype and full HDTV until after he/she has made a sizeable investment. Then the industry wants the opportunity to sell the poor slob the full HDTV. The excuse for this ruse is that the broadcasters are uncertain of the timeliness of HDTV and are reluctant to make the investment. The real HDTV will come even if it requires the broadcasters to be dragged kicking and screaming across the finish line.

Please do not adopt this scaled-down version of HDTV which would, if adopted, surely rape the consumer public.

Sincerely,

  
Sidney Dees

16517 16th Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98166

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

MM 37-268

SEP 19 1995

5 Maud Graham Circle  
Burlington, MA 01803-3613  
May 17, 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Chairman,  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JUN 15 1995

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

POLICY & RULES DIVISION

Dear Sir,

I am a retired Life Member of the IEEE who has just finished reading the April 1995 issue of the IEEE Spectrum magazine. In that magazine was an article entitled "The Grand Alliance" which included a discussion of FCC decisions regarding HDTV. If I understand the situation, the FCC ~~has~~ decided to develop HDTV on a "simulcast" basis which will over a relatively short "transition period" make all of the current television receivers in the U.S. obsolete because current NTSC broadcasts will be phased out in favor of the new non-NTSC compatible HDTV broadcasting technique. This decision appears to have been based on the recommendations of MIT and various industry groups.

If my understanding is correct this decision is on a par with that taken (but later reversed) by an earlier FCC around 1948 when they approved the CBS electromechanical color TV system rather than the NTSC system. The CBS system, in addition to other deficiencies, would have obsoleted about one million TV monochrome receivers. The current decision would obsolete many, many million receivers now in use and not yet purchased in the near future; in fact it appears that "unusable" is the correct term rather than obsolete.

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE



Further, this would be the first time that a new system would actually make other, existing systems unusable. To date the advent of new television and radio systems has allowed those desirous and able to use them to do so without making existing systems worthless.

I sincerely hope that I have badly misunderstood the situation, because on the surface it appears that a decision has been taken which will benefit industry and please many technocrats, but that the general public will find that their (in some cases large) investments in television equipment were wasted, with that equipment destined to become just junk in a few short years.

At my age there is a distinct possibility that the transition will occur after I am gone; however, it is my strong opinion that the decision, if it is as I understand it, should be revisited. A major public relations effort should be mounted to solicit the opinions of the consumers - I strongly suspect that ~~if~~ I was unaware of this situation then the general public was surely unaware.

It may be that from a pure "technology advancement" point of view that the decision is correct, but it is my belief that strong efforts should be made to find an approach which is compatible to the NTSC system even if it is not the ideal from a technocrat or an electronic industry point of view.

Sincerely,  
Harold D. Levin

Note: Copies to Congressmen Tarbillion and Markey and Fickes

RECEIVED MM 87-248

SEP 19 1995

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman,  
1919 M St. NW  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Mr. Chairman,

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

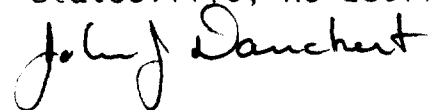
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Back as a boy in 1934 when the FCC was founded, I recall that the family would sit down each night and listen to our AM radio and enjoy all of the shows that were available, usually 4 or 5 stations. Except for an occasional inclement night, they would be reasonably clear. Now, 60 years later, you get nothing after dark. Perhaps you could explain how we can talk to a capsule orbiting the moon with no trouble, but I can't get the recap of the game a mile from the arena on local AM radio. That's a sad outlook for the upcoming Info- super-highway. I'm sure someone had a bright idea many years ago when they started messing with the antennas at sundown but I bet nobody knows why at this juncture.

In regard to HDTV, I finally gave up and bought a large screen Hitachi, so you need not rush to judgement on my account.

You probably don't hear to many complaints but its only because not one in a hundred thousand would know how to reach the FCC.

Sincerely  
John J. Danckert  
133, Little John Rd,  
Statesville, NC 28677



No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

"An ill considered letter from a frustrated customer"

RECEIVED

MM 87-268

SEP 19 1995

Dear FCC,

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Please note a user's dislike for where you seem to be going with HDTV, i.e. down the tubes. For five years, we in the technical community heard nothing about SDTV, now it suddenly shows up, a cloud!?

### Observations:

1. SDTV offers no advantage in terms of definition, aspect ratio, or complexity over current standards.
2. SDTV offers very little advantage in terms of computer format that hasn't already been addressed in software years ago. You don't need  $640 \times 480$  if you can regenerate it in real time.
3. SDTV will again, for the  $\$10^{11}$  trillionth time, slow down HDTV, a standard agreed upon by industry, guys like me, and even "well meaning folks" like you.
4. Europe and Asia, ten years ago, bypassed you guys. Why on earth don't you just say go?
5. DARPA doesn't exist any more. For years, the principle complaint was that standards shouldn't exceed DARPA stuff, you wouldn't want the guy on the street to have a better graphics screen than  $500 \times 500$  because he might see something he should on that arassu Knoll or PC board photocopier.

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

Get real, I've got a graphics camera that will, with the right film, show the dimples on a mules butt at 4000 miles. In addition I've got a 2400 x 2400 DPI color scanner that will let me transmit those dimples to the world dictator of my very own chasing upon the winds of the next packet communication.

6. The FCC is viewed as a joke, not because of serious matters, but by virtue of being understaffed and by virtue of the myriad sways held by every Bell, Sprint and NATO that comes along. Improve image = launch HDTV now

I would suggest that any spectrum changes only occur at 14+ year intervals, and then only after public hearings. In addition I would authorize local sheriff's local ham units as enforcement for spectrum violations. I am tired of having my radio blown away by some truck driver with a 1000W line.  
7. Push to get congress out of communications. Too ~~may~~ many cooks spoil the brew.

Thanks,

P.S. This is almost identical to the letter I wrote in 1986 on the same subject.

Edward E. Zimble, RD 77 Purdue  
1720 W. Shackle Rd  
Columbia City, IN. 46725

July 13, 1995

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

I am deeply involved in the production of commercial and educational "virtual reality" products, as well as Internet-based advertising. I am greatly enthusiastic about the nearly endless possibilities that the burgeoning communications technologies have to offer, but I also strongly believe in the maintenance of public-interest broadcasting and communications facilities and resources. It is vitally important that, in the rush to exploit the new communications media, we do not neglect our humanity. The bottom line is that a bankrupt culture makes for a bankrupt nation, and we cannot afford to let this happen.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. We believe, therefore, that it is self-evident that public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Bailey Johansen  
138 Albion  
San Francisco CA 94107  
(415)284-5300  
ns2@match.com

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_